

REMARKS

In the Office Action of November 6, 2002, the Examiner (1) objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show the opening of the housing; (2) rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the phrase "at a location where both the first and second seals are disposed between the at least one chamber and the third seal" in line 4 as being indefinite; (3) rejected claims 1, 5-9, 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,290,235 to Albertson; and (4) rejected claims 2-4 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Albertson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,439,578 to Radcliffe.

With this amendment Applicant has modified the specification to assign a reference number (57) to the opening in the housing. Applicant also submits herewith a Request for Approval of Drawing Change to include the new reference number in Fig. 4. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawing be withdrawn.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for taking the time to meet with Applicant's representative in the Examiner's Interview of Jan. 21, 2003. As discussed in the interview, Applicant is amending claim 8 to resolve the cause of indefiniteness noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

With this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 10. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Albertson in view of Radcliffe. Accordingly, the same rejections may be applied to amended claims 1 and 7.

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Applicant maintains that the combination of Albertson in view of Radcliffe do not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. However, in the interests of expediting prosecution of the present application, Applicant is submitting a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 with supporting documentation. The attached Declaration establishes a date of invention prior to the effective date of Radcliffe. This submission eliminates the basis for the Examiner's rejections.

As a result of this submissions, Radcliffe is no longer a prior art reference. Applicant therefore requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 3-9, and 11-16.

Please grant any additional extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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